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SELECT COMMITTEE ON MASS VIOLENCE PREVENTION & COMMUNITY SAFETY

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Questions to Designated Parties, Duty # 4

The below questions from members of the House Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety (Select Committee) were submitted via email to Designated Parties as listed in the Formal Request for Information posted by the Select Committee on August 4, 2020.

General Questions for all Designated Parties from Chairman Darby:

1. What can the state of Texas do to invest in long-term solutions for law-enforcement, mental health, and cybersecurity workforces? Does Texas have shortages in your respective field?
2. Do you have any immediate recommendations for the Select Committee to address the education or training requirements in your specific field?

General Questions for all Designated Parties from Representative Blanco:

1. What specific statutory recommendations could you make to improve long-term workforce needs in your area?
2. What barriers of entry do you see in your field and do you have recommendations on addressing those?
3. Are there examples from other states that you have seen to help improve the long term workforce needs in your respective areas?
4. How has the surge in gun violence, mass violence, domestic terror threats impacted the training and education of professionals in your areas? Is there any particular focus on addressing, preventing, or identifying these threats in your profession's education and training?
5. What policy recommendations, based on your experience, training, and education, would you make to prevent or deter future mass violence incidences?
6. Can you elaborate on the role your profession can play in helping prevent mass gun violence?
7. How can recent mass violence incidences inform or update the education and training requirements in your respective fields?

Specific Question for Mental Health and Behavioral Professionals from Representative Blanco:

1. In recent years, we have seen the adoption of live/active shooter drills in public schools. There drills seem to vary across the board and there are concerns that these drills can cause post traumatic disorder among other psychological and emotional disorders in children. Can you please explain or elaborate how these intense drills might impact the mental and behavioral health of developing children? And in your opinion, is there a better way to prepare or train children for these worst case scenarios? Or are schools doing more damage than good with these type of active drills?

Specific Questions to Dr. Jeff Temple from Representative Blanco:

1. Can you please explain your recent study that examined the link between mental health and the risk of gun violence?
2. Do you think your study and its conclusions should affect the education and training of mental health professionals in the future? If so, how so?
3. How do you think your study can be applied across disciplines in educating and training professionals to help identify risk factors to prevent mass gun violence?
4. Can you please provide a copy of your study to the committee for its record?
5. As you know, mass violence attacks, including El Paso, have been motivated by racism. Can you provide any insight, as a behavioral scientist, of how extreme or racist radicalization can impact the mental and behavioral disposition of an individual over time?